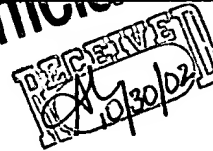
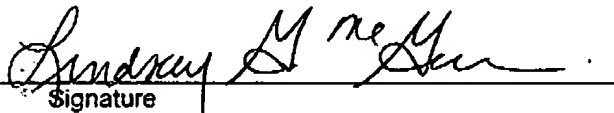


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Amendment + Replacement sheets - 9 pages

09/457,209

2204/186/ BA0414 /120/025

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Cain
Serial No: 09/457,209
Filed: December 8, 1999
For: System Device and Method for Sending Keep-Alive Messages in a
Communications Network
Art Unit: 2155
Examiner: Zia, Syed

AMENDMENT

BOX AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the below amendments and response to the Office Action for the above referenced case, dated July 31, 2002. A clean set of replacement sheets is attached hereto.

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for sending keep-alive messages [to] by a node to a neighbor in a communication network, the method comprising:
determining a reliability factor for communicating with a neighbor; and
determining a frequency for sending keep-alive messages to the neighbor based upon the reliability factor.

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are pending. Reconsideration and re-examination of these claims in respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and below remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102